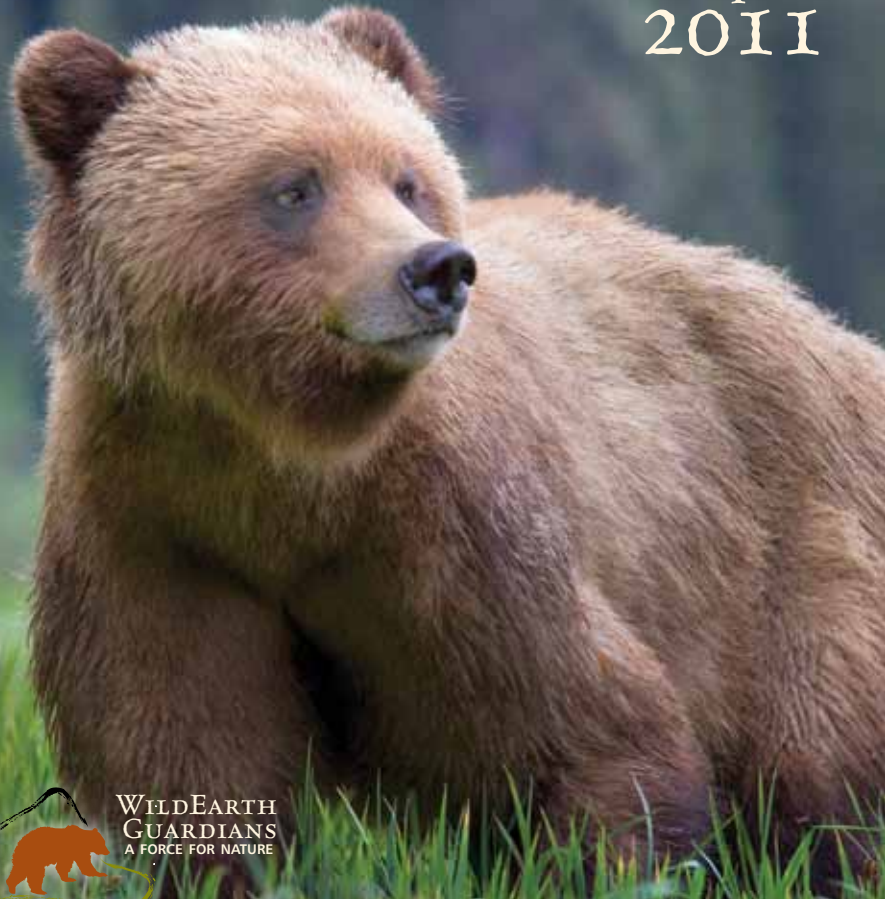


Annual Report 2011



WILDEARTH
GUARDIANS
A FORCE FOR NATURE



From the Board President

Robin Smith

As I reflect on the past year, I'm both grateful and humbled – by you and the thousands of loyal GUARDIANS that believe in our shared vision and need to advocate for our beliefs in a respectful and professional manner.

I am guessing you love wildlife and wild places as I do and are appalled by what now regularly happens in Washington, D.C. This past year “cafeteria” constitutionalists called on the public to “stick to the Constitution,” but then turned their back on their own values by picking and choosing the parts of the Constitution that best supported their political agenda. This was clearly the case when Congress inserted a rider into the 2011 budget bill removing ESA protections from the gray wolf. The rider violated the Constitution’s separation of powers doctrine by overturning a 2009 federal court decision that delisting wolves violated the Endangered Species Act.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS’ values and resolution, on the other hand, do not waver or sway with the political winds. In 2011, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS filed a lawsuit to return protections to the gray wolf and end horrifying wolf hunting in Idaho and Montana. With your help we will continue to fight for the wolf, wild places and imperiled species in the American West in 2012. Thank you for believing in and supporting WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.

Robin Smith



Guardian Givers

DAVE JONES AND
DEBRA CALLAHAN

On our best days we are greeted in the morning by the green-tailed towhee, entertained by a unfamiliar insect of many legs or by a sudden afternoon thunderstorm, and tucked in by a chorus of coyotes. On these days, and to be honest on most days, it is easy to ignore the harm we are doing to ourselves and our planet – but we know in our hearts that extending a measure of protection to our wild neighbors is vital. We do that, in part, by supporting WILDEARTH GUARDIANS. This year we decided to deepen our commitment by naming WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as a benefactor in our will. We contribute knowing that the organization shares our dreams and endeavors to protect the wild places and wild creatures we cherish.

When we decided to add WILDEARTH GUARDIANS as a beneficiary in our estate planning documents we did so because we believe that the organization's diverse approaches to environmental protection are one of the big reasons for its success. Now, in the same way that the organization's commitment enhances the resilience of wild nature our commitment will enhance WILDEARTH's resilience. We envision this will be our final offering to a world that has sustained us with immeasurable grace and beauty. We urge others to consider making a legacy gift in honor of their own wild neighbors.



Vision and Persistence: GUARDIANS at Work in 2011

Sometimes we work for years and years, even decades, to achieve systemic change with very little to show for it; and then we create a breakthrough – a paradigm shifting legal, policy, or legislative victory that fundamentally changes the conversation about conservation.

2011 was that kind of year for WILDEARTH GUARDIANS.

A year during which we changed the conversation about the extinction crisis with our historic legal settlement to break the Endangered Species Act listing logjam; when we published a visually stunning coffee-table book of aerial photographs of the Rio Grande that is inspiring people anew to discuss how to sustain this Great River; and when our legal



"I work at WILDEARTH GUARDIANS not only because we're ambitious and we want to win, but also because we're creative, irreverent and courageous

actions required dozens of coal-fired power plants to clean up their dirty acts, increasing the cost of coal, thereby expediting the transition to clean energy.

These and many other accomplishments gave us a bigger profile and enhanced our reputation as a group that can be trusted to get big things accomplished.

And yet as much as 2011 was a break out year for the GUARDIANS it is our consistent adherence to our core values – persistence, beauty, fierceness, vision and innovation – that provides continuity as we work to expand our reach.

GUARDIANS Value: PERSISTENCE

Outcome: *Advancing Endangered Species Act protection for 800+ species*

Our decade-long effort to secure protection for hundreds of America's most endangered, but unprotected, species



in tackling large and small problems. I also love my staff. They each bring tremendous energy, integrity and humility and that sustains and renews my own commitment every day.”

—JOHN HORNING



—like the Sonoran desert tortoise, the greater sage-grouse and the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle – paid off big in May with the signing of an historic agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The agreement will advance protection for more than 800 species under the Endangered Species Act by releasing a logjam of delayed species listings that has blocked protection for imperiled plants and animals for decades. Our team of lawyers and scientists invested years of work to secure this landmark outcome. That kind of persistence is what's needed to solve big problems and it's a defining characteristic of the GUARDIANS.

GUARDIANS Value: BEAUTY

Outcome: *Publishing a coffee table book of photography of the Rio Grande*

In the same way that legal leverage can be a catalyst for major change so to can beauty. In the summer of 2011 we published our



"I work at WG to give voice to the wilderness, wildlife and other natural wonders that are so treasured by Americans."
—BRYAN BIRD



first-ever book, *The Rio Grande: An Eagle's View*, a stunning visual journey from the Great River's headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico. The book was a multi-year collaboration with aerial photographer Adriel Heisey.

The book is already inspiring new political discourse about the river that is essential if we are ever to secure the Rio Grande a right to its own water. Congressman Martin Heinrich and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar are now talking about the Rio Grande's need for water and our book's inspiration – combined with our dogged legal advocacy—is creating the social context to ensure that we protect a living Rio Grande.



"I work at WG because I want to know that I am contributing to the preservation of the natural world."

—LORI COLT



GUARDIANS Value: FIERCENESS

Outcome: *Strengthening the movement for wolves*

Wolves faced persecution across the West in 2011, and we stepped in to defend them – from Congress, misguided federal management, and negligent state agencies – regardless of the odds. Thus, when Congress removed Rocky Mountain wolves from the Endangered Species Act in April, WILDEARTH GUARDIANS filed a series of lawsuits in an attempt to restore protection to the population. While we may lose, we won't back down. The stakes are too high.



"I work at WG because I love the wilderness and wild creatures! Like Aldo Leopold, I simply cannot live without them."

—ANGELISA ESPINOZA

If we're ever to realize our vision of wolves roaming free from Mexico to Canada, we have to secure more habitat for them – both where they live today and where they will live tomorrow. That's why we also filed litigation to ban steel leg-hold traps in New Mexico to protect the lobo and pursued legal claims against Rocky Mountain National Park to force the Park to consider wolf reintroduction in Colorado.

GUARDIANS Value: VISION

Outcome: Increasing the cost of fossil fuels

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS believes that the best way to create a new clean energy framework is to force industry to internalize more of its costs, thereby increasing the price of fossil fuels. Our June 2011 Clean Air Act legal settlement is doing just that: it requires utilities to devise plans to clean up 20 coal-fired



"I work at WG because I need to live in a world with big wilderness, free flowing rivers and wild wolves. I can fight for that here." —KEVIN GAITHER BANCHOFF



power plants throughout the West. The added costs associated with these legally-mandated clean up plans are forcing utilities to question their commitment to coal.

Likewise two other legal settlements reached in 2011 are forcing the same reckoning with our addiction to oil and gas extraction. One agreement requires the Bureau of Land Management to evaluate air pollution impacts prior to permitting drilling and another requires the BLM to “aggregate” sources of pollution when permitting new wells.

GUARDIANS Value: INNOVATION

Outcome: Securing Leopold’s legacy in the Greater Gila

Building on Aldo Leopold’s legacy in the Greater Gila – the landscape that inspired the wilderness ethic in a region that remains hostile to wildness – won’t come easily and that’s where our innovative streak comes into play. In the fall we reached agreements with ranchers to voluntarily relinquish



“I work at WG because I love wild things, from the most charismatic to the smallest and most overlooked..” —TAYLOR JONES



their national forest grazing permits on 70,000 acres where wolves and livestock conflict.

As soon as we secure the Forest Service's approval to retire the allotments we'll have crafted a new strategy for land and wildlife protection in the Gila. And we have no doubt that word will spread and that other ranchers will embrace permit retirement.

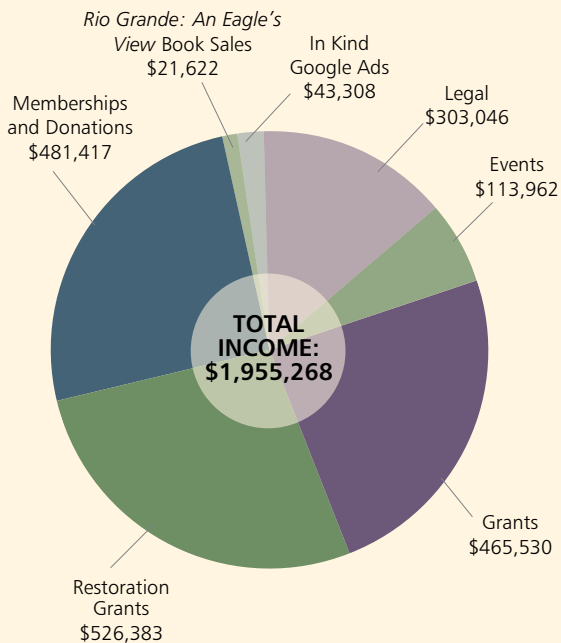
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Of course that is not all that we accomplished, much less took action on in 2011. But we believe it does tell enough of the GUARDIANS story to show that as we've expanded our scope we remain fiercely biocentric while we continue to be strategically flexible. In the year ahead you can continue to expect a lot of us; we already do of ourselves.



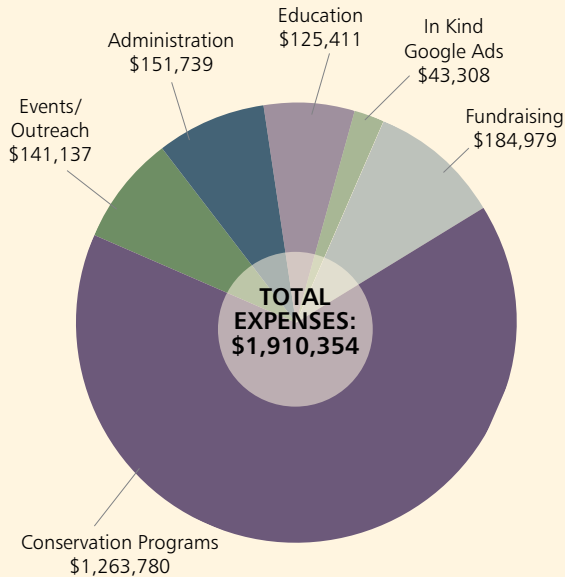
"I work at WG because I grew up in big, dusty, blue-sky New Mexico and I want to help ensure all its creatures and plants remain here forever."
—MONA KAY

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS



"I work at WG because of our vision to conserve native carnivores from swift foxes, bobcats, coyotes, cougars, and wolves, to grizzly bears." —WENDY KEEFER

2011 Financials*



*Unaudited. Audited finances available 4/1/2012.



"I work for WG to restore and preserve our ecosystems for current and future generations of all flora and fauna, including our children."
—JIM MATISON

By the Numbers

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS likes to measure our progress annually to assess the potential environmental benefits of our work. Here's how our numbers – from really big ones to some small, yet important ones – tell the story of what we accomplished in 2011.



100,000: Native cottonwoods and willows planted to jumpstart restoration of streams and rivers in the Southwest.



38,000: Tons of cancer-causing benzene that will be eliminated nationwide as a result of stronger air pollution limits on fracking spurred by our efforts.



12,000: Signatures WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and partners gathered in favor of a ban on trapping in New Mexico.



821: Imperiled species in WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' landmark species settlement agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will receive action under the Endangered Species Act, including 252 candidate species that will receive listing decisions after decades of delay.



284: Acre-feet of water still flowing in the Rio Grande every day nourishing endangered species habitat thanks to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' opposition to water transfer proposals.



68: Land management plans the Bureau of Land Management will update with new greater sage-grouse conservation measures in response to WILDEARTH GUARDIANS' species settlement agreement.



26: Coal-fired power plants throughout the West on track to be cleaned up, retired, or repowered because of our successful lawsuits against the Environmental Protection Agency.



20: Mountain lions protected when we killed a proposal before the Colorado Wildlife Commission that would have allowed hunters to use electronic calls to lure in unsuspecting lions.



15: Imperiled plants and animals that WILDEARTH GUARDIANS petitioned for protection under the Endangered Species Act in 2011.



3: Lawsuits to compel the federal government to relist gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

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"I work at WG because of our biocentric world view.
GUARDIANS believe all species have the right to survive
and thrive."
—CAROL NORTON

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"I work at WG because I'm inspired every day by the power of people who are making a difference for our future here in the American West." —JEREMY NICHOLS



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"I work for WG because I want a world with clean air and water, so that I can be healthy enough to enjoy the Earth's wild places." —SAMANTHA RUSCAVAGE BARZ



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"I work at WG because species extinction is a travesty, but with perseverance, leadership and a little luck, we can prevent it."
—MARK SALVO



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"I work at WG because I care about protecting wild places and making the environment cleaner for my son."

—ASHLEY WILMES



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"I work for WG because we do more than just great policy work, we work on the ground restoring riparian ecosystems."
—WHITNEY BACON

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WILDEARTH GUARDIANS protects and restores the wildlife, wild places, and wild rivers of the American West.